

## **NEW JERSEY AIDS/HIV/STD HOTLINE**

### ***PRESS RELEASE***

October 2015

## **Couples, Do You Know Your HIV Status?**

**(Newark, NJ)** – Are you in a relationship (short or long-term)? Are you monogamous (having only one partner at a time)? Have you talked about HIV in the context of that relationship? Do you know your HIV Status? Do you know your partner's? Are either of you afraid to ask? Why not test together when you can get your results in less than an hour? Learn each other's status and act accordingly.

HIV testing has never been quicker and easier than it is today with Rapid HIV Testing, yet fear and misperceptions still stop people from finding out their status. The reality is frightening... anyone is at risk of infection regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender or age. Testing is the only way to identify infected individuals and get them access to the medical care they need to ensure their health and reduce the further spread of the virus.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that healthcare providers include HIV testing as part of their patients' routine medical care. Individuals between the ages of 13-64 should get tested for HIV at least once in their lifetimes. However, they recommend that some groups (high risk groups) be tested more often due to certain risk factors. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men account for most new infections in the age group 13 to 24; black/African American or Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men are especially affected.<sup>[1]</sup>

Many new infections are transmitted by people who do not know they are even infected. Undiagnosed infections continue to fuel the epidemic in New Jersey. More than 37,000 residents are living with HIV or AIDS.<sup>[2]</sup> Injection drug use and sexual contact remain the major ways people in NJ are exposed to the HIV virus.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS – GET OUT & GET TESTED**

Early detection and huge advances in medical treatment make it possible for HIV-positive individuals to enjoy long, healthy lives when in care. If you are in a relationship and don't know your or your partner's HIV status, make an appointment for Rapid HIV Testing today. Don't wait to get tested; you cannot rely on symptoms to know if you are HIV-positive.

The NJ AIDS/HIV/STD hotline is a resource for couples. If you are looking to find a free, state-funded testing site near you for initial testing, follow-up care, or have questions about HIV/AIDS, STDs, or hepatitis, contact us either by calling 800-624-2377, text/email at [8006242377@njpies.org](mailto:8006242377@njpies.org), or chat via our site at [www.njhivstdline.org](http://www.njhivstdline.org); the hearing impaired may also use their TTY and call 973-926-8008. We are always here to help 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week! Calls are free and confidential.

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<sup>[1]</sup> CDC Risk Youth Fact Sheet, July 2015 [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk\\_youth\\_fact\\_sheet\\_final.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk_youth_fact_sheet_final.pdf)

<sup>[2]</sup> Healthy New Jersey 2020 <http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/hnj2020/chronic/hiv aids/index.shtml>

<sup>[3]</sup> New Jersey HIV/AIDS Report June 30, 2013, pg.3 [http://www.state.nj.us/health/aids/documents/hiv\\_aids\\_report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/aids/documents/hiv_aids_report_2013.pdf)



Services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year

- Referrals for free, testing sites and other related services
- HIV/AIDS, STD and Hepatitis Prevention Information
- HIV Counseling and Treatment Locations
- HIV Treatment Information
- Referrals for free, clean needles/syringes

#### **About NJPIES**

As New Jersey's only poison control center, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System provides information on poison prevention and treatments. Chartered in 1983, NJPIES provides free consultation through telephone hot line services and the Web. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer confidential advice regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. These specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NJPIES coordinates state poison education and research and is designated as the regional poison center by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of the New Jersey Medical School of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located on the school's Newark campus. NJPIES is funded, in part, by the NJ Department of Health and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

New Jersey residents seeking immediate information about treating poison emergencies, and those with any drug information questions, should call the toll-free hot line, **800-222-1222**, any time. The hearing impaired may call **973-926-8008**. For more information, visit [www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org) or call **973-972-9280**.

#### **About Rutgers**

Established in 1766, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is America's eighth oldest institution of higher learning and one of the nation's premier public research universities. Serving more than 65,000 students on campuses, centers, institutes and other locations throughout the state, Rutgers is the only public university in New Jersey that is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) is the health care education, research, and clinical division of Rutgers University, comprising nine schools and their attendant faculty practices, centers, institutes and clinics; New Jersey's leading comprehensive cancer care center; and New Jersey's largest behavioral health care network.

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